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NSC BRIEFING

11 March 1954

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**COMMUNIST POSITION AT GENEVA**

I.

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II.

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Orbit

propaganda energetically supporting Viet Minh.

- A. This points to a Communist claim at Geneva that Viet Minh is sole representative of Viet-nameese people.
- B. French hopes that Peiping would sacrifice Viet Minh in return for some major Western concession such as UN recognition thus appear unfounded.
- C. Communists unwilling damage Communist prospects in Southeast Asia.

III. Communists at Geneva will make strong demand for immediate national elections without outside direction.

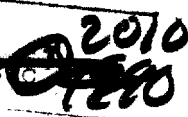
- A. Communists confident Viet Minh will win.
- B. No doubt that immediate holding elections after truce would result in Viet Minh victory.
- C. Rejection of early elections by West would make Communists look as the true supporters of democracy.

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25X1 IV. [ ] dangers of immediate plebiscite elections seen by all in Indochina, but there no answer yet to counter proposal for such.

- A. Buu Loc Government technically competent but has little popular support; it not capable of dealing with Viet Minh in any elections.
- B. Bao Dai's adamant opposition to elections for a National Assembly gravely weakens anti-Communist leadership.

V. Communist propaganda now preparing to blame US for failure Geneva conference.

- A. Viet Minh propaganda increasingly violent in its anti-American theme.

25X1 B. [ ] for first time Vietnamese who work for US aid programs been reported by Viet Minh as assassinated.

- C. This could be precursor of terror campaign against pro-Americans.

25X1 VI. If Geneva conference fails, the scale of war in Indochina will be greatly increased.



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B.  French fear of prospect of hotter war  
may do much to make them more susceptible  
to Communist proposals.

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